

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:AF:MLGARRISON
APPROVED BY:AF:TWSEELYE
S/S-MR.SEASTIAN
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O 032135Z NOV 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 270871

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 8677 SENT SECSTATE NOV 2. QUOTE:

S E C R E T GENEVA 8677

NODIS/CHEROKEE

TO THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR RH UK
SUBJ: THE RHODESIANS COMPLICATE THEIR OWN POSITION

1. RHODESIAN PUBLIC BEHAVIOR SINCE THE BEGINNING
OF THE CONFERENCE HAS COMPLICATED THE DIFFICULT
ROLE WHICH SMITH HAS TO PLAY IN GENEVA. STATEMENTS
WHICH HE, MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, AND SENIOR
OFFICIALS IN SALISBURY HAVE MADE, FEED LONG STANDING
AFRICAN SUSPICIONS OF SMITH'S MOTIVES.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED SUTTON-PRICE'S "SPEAKING
NOTES". THEY CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN WIDE CIRCULATION
AND CHONA MENTIONED THEM TO ME IN PASSING THIS MORNING.

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MUZOREWA IN HIS OCT 28 SPEECH REFERRED TO AN OCT 26

STATEMENT BY SMITH'S MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND POWER HAWKINS. REFERRING TO THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION PLAN, HAWKINS IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID "THEY DID SAY THAT THE FUND WHICH WAS TO BE ESTABLISHED, A PORTION OF WHICH WOULD BE INJECTED INTO OUR ECONOMY, IN ORDER TO BRING IT UP TO ITS POTENTIAL, COULD BE USED TO PURCHASE WEAPONS, ETC., BECAUSE SANCTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON THEM WHICH WOULD ONLY HAVE AGGRAVATED THE SITUATION. WE DO DESPERATELY NEED MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS OF WAR. THERE WOULD ALSO BE NO OBJECTION TO OUR RECRUITING FROM OTHER ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES. IT IS ALSO INDICATED THAT IF WE BELIEVED IT NECESSARY TO HAVE DEEPER PENETRATION INTO MOZAMBIQUE ONCE WE WERE A LEGAL ENTITY AND CRITICISM WOULD NOT APPLY."

3. VAN DER BYL'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT EXECUTIONS IN RHODESIA, VAN DER BYL TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN DISCUSSING THAT SUBJECT SINCE THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WERE ALREADY DEAD. VAN DER BYL IS ALSO BEING QUOTED AS HAVING MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ABOUT THE LACK OF AFRICAN GRATITUDE.

4. SMITH'S BACKGROUND INTERVIEW WITH ARNOAUD DE BORCHGRAVE WILL NOT HELP EITHER. PRESS AND CORRIDOR COMMENTS CHARACTERIZE THE VAN DER BYL APPOINTMENT AS AN "INSULT" TO THE AFRICANS.

5. IT IS HARD TO QUESTION SMITH'S NEED TO PLAY A STRONG HAND IN GENEVA AND NOT INDICATE WEAKNESS. NEVERTHELESS RHODESIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS NOW STAND IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE STATEMENTS WHICH AFRICAN DELEGATES HAVE MADE IN RECENT DAYS. RHETORICAL SLIGHTS TO THE WHITE REGIME IN SALISBURY HAVE ABATED, AND THE KISSINGER PLAN IS NO LONGER BEING CHARACTERIZED IN DISPARAGING TERMS.

6. ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE ANTI-SMITH BIAS OF THE PRESS WHICH TENDS TO DISTORT EVEN WELL-INTENTIONED
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RHODESIAN STATEMENTS, EVERYONE'S INTEREST WOULD BE SERVED BY AN EXTENTION OF THE RHETORICAL TRUCE. CATTO UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 11/02/76, PROGRESS REPORTS, MINORITIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE270871
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF:MLGARRISON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760008-0071
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761184/aaaacvaj.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE RHODESIANS COMPLICATE THEIR OWN POSITION
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, UK, US
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006